Amendments to Specification

Please change the following paragraphs:

[0017] The hinges 150, 151, 152 and 153 between the blades 110, 120, 130 and 140 and the frame 100 are shown in detail in FIGS. 2 and 4. FIG. 4 is a blown up view of hinge 151 between blade 120 and frame 100. The hinge 151 consists of a hinge pin 161 which is attached to frame 100. The blade 120 fits over the pin [[160]] 161 and rotates about the pin. A hinge spring 171 is connected between the frame 100 and blade 120 to bias blade 120 to rotate in a certain direction (discusses below). Each blade has similar hinge pins [[160]] 161, 162 and 163 and hinge springs 170, 172 and 173 designs, as shown in FIG. 2. While the hinge pins here are shown and disclosed attached to the frame, they may alternatively be attached to the blade. Either or other designs may be used as long as the blades hinge about the frame.

[0020] Upon release of the pressure against the second sections 116, 126, 136 and 146, the blades rotate back in the direction B2 towards the closed position, as shown in FIGS. 1 and 2 through the action of the springs ~~161, 162, 163 and 164~~ 170, 171, 172 and 173 at the respective hinges 150, 151, 152 and153. Thus, the end portions 111, 121, 131 and 141 are biased and move towards center axis RA so that the blades, and hence the insertion end, move to the closed position.

[0022] In the detail shown in FIGS. 3 and 5, blade 120 is shown in conjunction with locking mechanism block 201. As shown, the block rotates about pin 211, generally perpendicular to the rotation of blade 120. The rotation is biased from block spring 221 to rotate in the direction of arrow L1 and press surface 251 against the second section 126 of blade 120. A series of stops

310, 311, 312 and 313 along the surface 251 provide locking contacts. When the second section is rotated inward along in the direction B1, the second section moves past the stops. The block spring 211 pushes the block against the second section causing it to click over the stops. When the pressure moving the second section in the direction B1 is ceased, hinge spring [[161]] 171 biases the second section 120 in the direction B2, however, the last stop the second section passed prevents movement of the second section past that last stop. For example, in FIG. 5, the second section had last passed stop 311. Upon the cessation of the pressure against the second section in the direction B1, the hinge spring would bias the second section against stop 311, which prevents the second section from moving further in the direction B2, towards the closed position of the speculum. This action thus, locks the second section in the stop 311 position, holding the blade in the open position.

[0025] In operation of the speculum, by either a physician or otherwise, the speculum is held at the control end. The action of the hinge springs ~~160, 161, 162 and 163~~ 170, 171, 172 and 173 bias the insertion end 10 of the speculum 1 in the closed position, as shown in FIG. 1. The closed position allows for easy insertion of the insertion end 10 into the body cavity without difficulty and causing little discomfort. The insertion end 10 is inserted into the cavity until the frame nearly abuts the rim of the body cavity or until the rim of the body cavity nears the portions of the blades between the neck portions and the intermediate portions.

[0026] The physician then manipulates each of the second sections 116, 126, 136 and 146 of the blades by moving them in the direction B1 towards the central axis RA of the frame. Such action causes the first sections 115, 125, 135 and 145 of the blades to begin to separate and open

the insertion end 10 inside the body cavity. As the physician continually rotates the second sections, they continually click past stops on the locking blocks 200, 201, 202 and 203, which are biased against them. When either the physician has fully opened the speculum or the first sections are opened as far as the body cavity will allow, the physician simply releases or ceases further rotation of the second sections in the direction B1. The speculum has then been put into the open position which opens the body cavity. The hinge springs ~~160, 161, 162 and 163~~ 170, 171, 172 and 173 will then cause the second sections to rotate in the direction B2 until the second sections move into contact with the last stops on the locking blocks each passed. The stops will hold the respective second sections in place.